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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

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COMMENTS:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/627,191 First Named Applicant: Gary H. Newman

Examiner: Michael Pham Art Unit: 2167 Status of Application: Non-Final

Tentative Participants:

(1) Examiner Michael Pham (2) Primary Examiner John Cottingham

(3) Rita M. Rooney, Attorney for Applicant (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: _____ **Proposed Time:** _____ **AM/PM**

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☑ **Telephonic** (2) ☐ **Personal** (3) ☐ **Video Conference**

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ **YES** ☑ **NO**

If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) Problem to be	Solved		☐	☐	☐
(2) Applicant's	Solution		☐	☐	☐
(3) Prior Art			☐	☐	☐
(4) Claim	Amendments		☐	☐	☐

☑ Continuation Sheet Attached

Brief Description of Argument to be Presented:

As per the attached proposed claim set, Applicant respectfully submits that the profile group managing server performs steps that are not shown in the prior art references such as primary and secondary grouping for computer profile data between and including ranges.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____.

NOTE: This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature — Examiner/SPE Signature

Rita M. Rooney

Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

Reg No. 30,585

Registration Number, if applicable

Interview Agenda
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/627,191

Proposed Amendments to Independent Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of managing a computer information database that contains computer profile data for computers, the method including~~ A method of operating a group profile managing server for managing a computer information database comprising ~~the steps of~~:

A. determining, by said group profile managing server, a multiple node tree structure of groups for ~~the~~ a set of computers, in which each node is a group level, and a top level is a root, based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected computer profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or more of hardware and software configuration and performance data;

B. ~~including, specifying~~ in a group mapping table in the computer information database, one or more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary grouping criteria, and including in those fields, in respective table records, values corresponding to the selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between selected high and low values, inclusive; ~~and wherein certain specific values for said primary grouping criteria and said secondary grouping criteria together uniquely identify one or more particular computers;~~

C. further ~~including~~specifying, in the respective table records, information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

D. receiving, at said group profile managing server, from each computer in the set of computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from a plurality of computers;

E. for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing server performs the following:

extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings and the secondary groupings,

querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted profile data correspond to or fall within the ranges of the respective values that are included in the primary grouping fields and the secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table, and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record,

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a second predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned; and

F. manipulating the computer profile data from the database and producing, for a selected group level, reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes of the computers that are in the selected group level or below in the tree.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a group profile managing server for managing a computer information database ~~that contains computer profile data for a plurality of computers, including the steps of:~~ comprising:

providing a database that contains computer profile data for a plurality of computers;

grouping, by said group profile managing server, the plurality of computers in groups that are nodes of a multiple node tree in the database in which each node is a group level, and a top level is a root, in accordance with user-specified primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to respective values of selected computer profile data and the selected values of one or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria are ranges between selected high and low values and wherein certain

specific values for said primary grouping criteria and said secondary grouping criteria together uniquely identify one or more particular computers; and

altering ranges for one or more of the grouping criteria;

manipulating the database computer profile data and producing, for one or more selected group levels, profile reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes of the computers that are included in a given group level or below in the tree.

20. (Currently Amended) Computer executable instructions running on a group profile managing server, ~~A computer readable medium configured as~~ for managing a database management system ~~for producing reports of attributes of collections of computers using computer profile data contained in a database, the system including~~comprising:

~~A.~~ a profile group managing server programmed with instructions ~~collecting means~~ for:

A. collecting, at the group profile managing server, profile data for a given computer ~~into the database which~~ is retained ~~in computer storage media;~~

B. ~~a profile group manager running on an associated computer for~~

grouping the computers into a specified tree-structure of ~~groups~~ groups in the database in which each node of the tree is a group level, and a top level is a root, based on primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to respective values of selected computer profile data with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between selected high and low values, wherein said associated values are those that are less than the high value and those that are greater than the low value, and wherein certain specific values for said primary grouping criteria and said secondary grouping criteria together uniquely identify one or more particular computers, ~~wherein said groupings in said multiple node tree reflect at least one of a company's organizational structure and its underlying physical set up;~~,

C. ~~the profile group manager~~ maintaining the computer profile data and the group information in appropriate fields of records in the database ~~in computer storage media;~~;

D. manipulating the data in the database to produce reports that summarize the attributes of the computers in a given group level and the levels below on the tree; and

E. providing the reports to a user.

22. (New) A system for managing computer profile data, comprising:

a group profile managing server configured to retrieve computer profile data;

a set of computers, each computer being configured with a client profile software module that maintains profile data for that computer, and uploads computer profile data to said group profile managing server; and

a computer information database configured with a mapping table having at least three fields including a primary profile value to match field, a secondary profile value to match field, and a group path field, wherein said group profile managing server determines how to include a computer in a group by extracting from uploaded profile data, that data which corresponds to primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria, said primary and/or secondary grouping criteria including ranges of values.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 19, 2009, has been reviewed carefully and the application has been amended in a sincere effort to place it in condition for allowance.

At Paragraph 5 of the Office Action, Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner contends the Claim 20 contains subject matter which was not described in the Specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. More specifically, the Examiner indicates that Claim 20 recites a computer readable medium and computer storage media, however the Examiner contends that the specification does not define what the computer readable medium comprises or what applicant intends to claim as a computer storage media.

Applicant has addressed this rejection by amending Claim 20 to recite that the computer executable instructions are running on a group profile managing server. The group profile managing server is described at Page 5, lines 16 – 22, and it is expressly provided that: "the server runs profile group managing software, which is denoted in the drawing by reference numeral 20." Those skilled in the art would understand that the software could also be described as computer executable instructions. Furthermore, the computer readable medium is stated as being configured as a database management system. The database is also well described in the Specification, for example, at Page 5, lines 16 – 18, which states: A server 14…manages a computer information database 18 that contains the profile data for the computers on the intranet 16 and any other computers (not shown) that are under company control." Thus, as recited in the preamble of Claim 20 "Computer executable instructions, running on a group profile managing server, embodied in a computer readable medium configured as a database management system comprises…."

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 20 as amended complies with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C.§101

At Paragraph 7 of the Office Action, Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 on the basis that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite: "A method of operating a group profile managing server for managing a computer information database, comprising…." The group profile managing server is a special purpose machine that manages the retrieval of computer profile data from the various computers and also manages the database and how the computer profile data is stored. Furthermore, paragraph A of Claim 1 recites: "determining *by said group profile managing server*, a multiple node tree structure of groups for a set of computers…." (Emphasis added).

It is believed that these amendments clarify that the invention is tied to another statutory class, namely, an apparatus, namely a specially designed machine, i.e., the group profile managing server. It is respectfully submitted that the claims, as amended comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101 as interpreted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in In re Bilski, 545 F.3d 943, 88 U.S.P.Q.2d 1385 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

At Paragraph 10 of the Office Action, Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,295,527 to McCormack et al. ("McCormack") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,098,067 to Erickson ("Erickson").

In contrast, McCormack describes a real-time user defined creation of network device information collections. McCormack teaches the Device Group Table 330 as shown in Fig. 2, but it is noted that according to McCormack, user input is provided that defines one of the groups by specifying a subset of the group criteria data that logical objects in the group must satisfy. Col. 3, lines 2-5. Then, the system responds to a request to view that group by retrieving the group criteria from the database. Col 3, lines 6-8.

In contrast, Applicant's invention involves receiving, at the profile group managing server, for inclusion in the database, ***computer profile data.*** The user does not need to be involved in this step as in McCormack. Instead, the step is performed by the group profile managing server 14. (*See also*, Fig. 1 of Applicant's Specification). In Applicant's claimed invention, the computer profile data is dynamically extracted from given computers and entered into he database according to for example, the primary and secondary groupings. The user does not have to be involved in this action.

Furthermore, as noted before, the Applicant's primary and secondary grouping criteria can involve a range. Applicant respectfully submits that the passage cited by the Examiner from McCormack does not teach a "range" such as Applicant provides. Instead, the passage expressly states that the system uses Boolean operators which would retrieve

individually items that satisfy the Boolean requirements. Specifically, McCormack states:

> In this embodiment, the query preferably is a statement in the Structured Query Language (SQL) and the database is a database server that can receive, interpret, and respond to SQL queries. Alternatively, any selection mechanism using a regular grammar can be used. Preferably, selection of multiple filter values causes the database query to be assembled using Boolean values to relate the filter values. In particular, when multiple filter values are selected from the same column of the filter dialog 210, they are related in the database query using a logical AND.
>
> For example, if Device Type values 7300 and 7500 are both selected by a user from the filter dialog 210, the filter mechanism 126 interprets the user's selection as requesting information about all network devices that are 7300 *or* 7500 type devices. As a second example, when Device Type values 7300 *and* 7500 are selected, and IOS Versions 10.3 *and* 11.1 also are selected, the filter mechanism 126 interprets the selections as requesting information about devices that are type 7300 *or* 7500 and that run IOS software version 10.3 *or* 11.1.

McCormack, Col. 11, line 48 through Col. 12, line16. (Emphasis added)

In summary, McCormack does not teach extracting computer profile data nor does it teach a primary and secondary grouping that specify ranges and devices *within* such ranges. Applicant's ranges have an upper and a lower limit and include all values in between the upper and lower limit. In order to enhance the claim and to further clarify the distinctions which it has over the cited references, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 20. Claim 1 recites: "the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between selected high and low values, ***inclusive***...." Claim 20 recites: "the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria ***being ranges that extend between selected high and low values, wherein said associated values are those that are less than the high values and those that are greater than the low value***...."

McCormack is silent on such ranges that include the values between the upper and lower limit. In fact McCormack teaches away from this feature of Applicant's claimed invention because of its teaching of a preferred Boolean query.

Erickson is cited for a multiple node tree structure. However, Erickson also does not

discuss ranges. Therefore, in the absence of this teaching from either of the references taken alone or in combination, it is respectfully submitted that the combination does not disclose, teach or render obvious Applicant's claimed invention.